

A rationale for supporting House Bill 5477  
A STATEWIDE PLATFORM FOR  
THE DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRONIC BOOKS  
General Law Committee – Public Hearing  
March 11, 2014

Good day Sen. Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and general law Committee members. I'm Jay Johnston, a legislative leader of the Connecticut library Association, Executive Director of the Farmington libraries and a member of the State Library Board. I'm here to ask you to move House Bill 5477 forward, a bill resulting from this committee's work in last year's legislative session addressing unequal access of e-books to public libraries by some publishers. The General Law Committee passed 2013 House Bill 5614, Special Act 13-10, which requested the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection to look at Connecticut's E-book marketplace.

The impact of 5614 was positive although no universal in that more publishers now recognize that the public library e-book relationship generates positive sales effects and therefore have opened access for public library acquisitions to a greater extent than before. So, we are supremely grateful that we have been heard and you have acted on our behalf. And, I will particularly like to thank Sen. Doyle and Rep. Baram for their steadfast resolve in those proceedings that followed with the publisher's representatives.

Why should you support House Bill 5477?

1. Because it's etiological basis was derived through findings set forth from special act 13 – 10
2. Because it makes good economic sense
3. Because It's good public policy Good economic sense by leveraging our states buying power with a net benefit in local aid to all 169 municipalities.

What is the DNA of 5477?

1. Grants State Library Board authority to create a platform, acquire e-licenses, and maintain service to state-wide platform for the distribution of electronic books to public library patrons
2. Provides a State Library e-book distribution platform.
3. Provides A statewide source of e-content "books"
4. Provide access to eBooks by all residents of Connecticut

Thank you for your attention and hearing my views on this important issue.